Raising of local battalions in Jammu and Kashmir

2866. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering raising of local battalions in Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of the North-East to help the unemployed rural youths to earn their livelihood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Raising of local battalions of police falls within the purview of the State Government. Accordingly, no such proposal is under the consideration of the Central Government.

Dialogue to resolve Kashmir issue

2867. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interlocutor appointed by the Central Government to start the process of dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir has started his work with the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dialogue with separatist leaders including the Hurriyat Conference has also been permitted and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the National Conference leaders including the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir would also be invited for the talks and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the net outcome of the talks is likely to be made public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Shri N.N. Vohra who has been appointed as the Government of India's representative to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organisations and concerned individuals in the State of J&K made a two day visit to J&K on 5th and 6th March, 2003 where he had preliminary meetings with Constitutional figures in the State *i.e.* Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker of Legislative

Assembly, Chairman, Legislative Council, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council. These persons represent both ruling party coalition in J&K and the opposition in the State Legislature.

(c) and (d) He will be free to talk to any elected representative or individual or group within J&K as indicated above.

(e) No time limit has been fixed by the Government for Sh. Vohras work. No commitment can be given at this stage regarding making public the outcome of the talks.

Rampant incest in Indian Families

2868. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "incest is rampant in Indian families";

(b) if so, the details of instances which brought to Government's notice during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard so as to encourage and promote healthy norms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise incidence of incest rape cases during 1999-2001 is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Government of India has been advising State Governments from time to time to give more focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of atrocities against women.

As a result of overall efforts of the Central Government, most of the States and Union Territories have set up Special Cells to deal with crime against women. Many States have set up Police Stations managed exclusively by women police personnel to deal with crime related to women and also inculcate a sense of confidence and security in women to approach Police Stations without fear or apprehensions.

A Bill named "Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2002" has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2002.